

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **HOT TIPS FOR THE SUMMER MAKE CAMPING PLANS NOW! (Or you may be left out!)**

SACRAMENTO – If you're planning to go camping this summer, don't wait until the week before you leave to find a place and make a reservation. That's the advice from California State Parks.

Last year, California State Parks had more than 80 million visitors at the 267 state park facilities. Every year, more people compete for campsites at locations ranging from the beaches to the Sierra, and from the desert to the redwoods. Act now, or risk disappointment.

State Park camping reservations can be made by calling 1-800-444-7275 or on-line at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov). You can make reservations up to seven months in advance.

Here are some camping tips:

- Determine where you want to camp and be flexible. Have alternate parks in mind in case your first choice is booked.
- Consider non-reservation sites. If the reservation sites are full, look for a first-come, first-served campground and try and arrive on a Tuesday or Wednesday to maximize your chance to get a campsite. For information on first-come, first-served campgrounds call 1-800-777-0369.
- Consider less busy days. Sometimes reservations are easier to make if you can camp mid-week.

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- Consider less popular camps. Southern coastal campgrounds can be full year-round. You may have better luck getting reservations at State Parks north of Santa Cruz or inland. Look for sites that are more remote, away from major metropolitan areas.
- Remember the holiday crush. The closer you try to make reservations to a holiday (Memorial Day weekend, Fourth of July, or Labor Day weekend), the further north and inland you may need to go.
- Consider cancellations. Check the ReserveAmerica website or call the 1-800-444-7275 phone number. Cancellations are rare, but they do occur.
- If the campground you want is booked, consider a day visit to the park for a picnic, hike or other outdoor recreation.

And don't forget, the annual day-use pass is just \$35 and it provides access to more than 230 state parks.

Special events are scheduled at many parks throughout the year. Check out the state parks events near you by visiting State Parks online at [www.parks.ca.gov/events](http://www.parks.ca.gov/events).

Remember – it pays to plan ahead!

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